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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 2014/15 of 16 July 2014, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

Acknowledging that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced national policies and practices and promoted international cooperation in that field by facilitating the exchange of views and experience, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels,

Recognizing the significant contributions of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice in promoting the exchange of experience in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice among States, intergovernmental

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organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

Recognizing also the efforts already made by the Government of Qatar to prepare for the hosting of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha, including its generous contribution to support the capacity of the Secretariat to ensure effective preparations for the Thirteenth Congress,

Recalling its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001 on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in which it stipulated the guidelines in accordance with which, beginning in 2005, the congresses, pursuant to paragraphs 29 and 30 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,[1] should be held,

Recalling also its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010 and its resolutions 66/179 of 19 December 2011, 67/184 of 20 December 2012 and 68/185 of 18 December 2013 on the follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Recalling further, in particular, that in its resolution 68/185 it decided to hold the Thirteenth Congress in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 11 April 2015,

Mindful that in its resolution 68/185 it also decided that the high-level segment of the Thirteenth Congress would be held during the first two days of the Congress in order to allow Heads of State or Government and government ministers to focus on the main theme of the Congress[2] and to enhance the possibility of generating useful feedback,

Mindful also that in its resolution 68/185 it further decided that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Thirteenth Congress would adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration, and that the declaration would contain the major recommendations reflecting and emerging from the deliberations of the high-level segment, as well as the discussion of the agenda items and the workshops,

1. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into consideration the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World[3] and the recommendations adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make all efforts, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein, taking into account the economic, social, legal and cultural specificities of their respective States;

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[1] General Assembly resolution 46/152, annex.

[2] "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation".

[3] General Assembly resolution 65/230, annex.

2. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to inform the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice about their activities aimed at the implementation of the Salvador Declaration and the recommendations adopted by the Twelfth Congress, with a view to providing guidance on the formulation of legislation, policies and programmes in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice at the national and international levels, and to that end requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the subject, to be submitted to the Congress for its consideration;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

5. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the discussion guide prepared by the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Thirteenth Congress;[5]

6. *Acknowledges* the relevance of the regional preparatory meetings, which have examined the substantive items of the agenda and the workshop topics of the Thirteenth Congress and made action-oriented recommendations,[6] to serve as a basis for the draft declaration to be adopted by the Thirteenth Congress;

7. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to begin, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/185, the preparation of a short and concise draft declaration reflecting the theme of the Thirteenth Congress, at intersessional meetings to be held well in advance of the Congress, taking into account the recommendations of the regional preparatory meetings and consultations with relevant organizations and entities;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of the workshops to be held during the Thirteenth Congress, and invites Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and to the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material;

9. *Reiterates its invitation* to donor countries to cooperate with developing countries to ensure their full participation in the workshops, and encourages States, other entities concerned and the Secretary-General to work together in order to ensure that the workshops focus on their respective issues and achieve practical results, leading to technical cooperation ideas, projects and documents related to enhancing bilateral and multilateral efforts in technical assistance activities in crime prevention and criminal justice;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make available the resources necessary to ensure the participation of the least developed countries in the Thirteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice;

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[4] E/CN.15/2014/6.

[5] A/CONF.222/PM.1.

[6] See A/CONF.222/RPM.1/1, A/CONF.222/RPM.2/1, A/CONF.222/RPM.3/1 and A/CONF.222/RPM.4/1.

11. *Encourages* Governments to make preparations for the Thirteenth Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees, with a view to contributing to a focused and productive discussion on the topics and to participating actively in the organization and conduct of the workshops, the submission of national position papers on the various substantive items of the agenda and the encouragement of contributions from the academic community and relevant scientific institutions;

12. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to be represented at the Thirteenth Congress at the highest appropriate level, for example by Heads of State or Government or government ministers and attorneys general, to make statements in the high-level segment on the theme and substantive items of the Congress and to participate actively in its proceedings by sending legal and policy experts with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice;

13. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Thirteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress;

14. *Also reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Thirteenth Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress;

15. *Welcomes* the plan for the documentation of the Thirteenth Congress, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;[7]

16. *Also welcomes* the appointment by the Secretary-General of a secretary-general and an executive secretary of the Thirteenth Congress, who will perform their functions under the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare an overview of the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide for presentation at the Thirteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice;

18. *Requests* the Commission to give high priority at its twenty-fourth session to considering the declaration of the Thirteenth Congress, with a view to recommending, through the Economic and Social Council, appropriate follow-up by the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon, through the Commission, to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

45th plenary meeting
16 July 2014

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[7] E/CN.15/2014/6, sect. II.C.